reacting the source material with a solution of a mineral acid for a period of time, and under temperature and pressure conditions sufficient, to solubilize at least a portion of the tantalum or niobium metal values from the source material;

separating and drying the undissolved material;

reacting the undissolved material with mineral acid comprising sulfuric acid for a period of time, and under temperature and pressure conditions sufficient to liberate hydrogen fluoride gas and to generate a sulfated material;

leaching the sulfated material to solubilize at least a portion of the metal values contained therein and generate an aqueous solution comprising said solubilized metal values and a solid phase at least partially depleted in the solubilized metal values; and

selectively extracting a solubilized metal value from said aqueous solution.

Further, please amend claims 3 and 10 as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, replace "2" with -- 21 --, and replace "undissolved" with -- sulfated --.

Claim 10. (Once amended) A process for selectively extracting [a] scandium values [metal value] from a source material which includes solubilizable scandium [metal] values, the process comprising:

leaching the source material to solubilize scandium [metal] values contained in the source material and generate an aqueous solution comprising said solubilized scandium [metal] values and a solid phase at least partially depleted in scandium; and

selectively extracting a scandium [metal] value from said aqueous solution.